

PROPOSAL – Cowiche Watershed 2014

3,292 Acres

Conservation Values

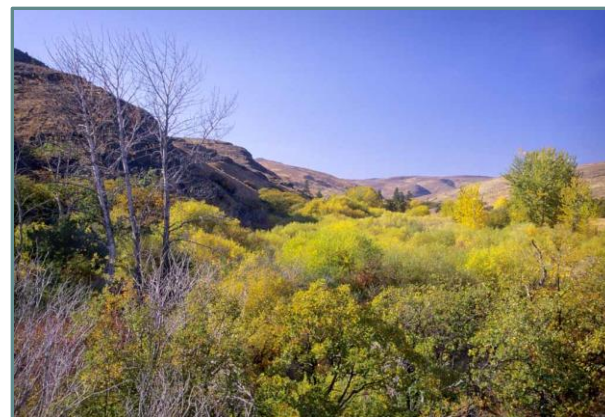
- **Migration corridor for wintering elk and sage grouse**
- **Diverse habitats including oak woodlands, shrub steppe, riparian and wetlands**
- **Connects to other public lands**
- **Protects critical salmonid habitat and associated uplands**

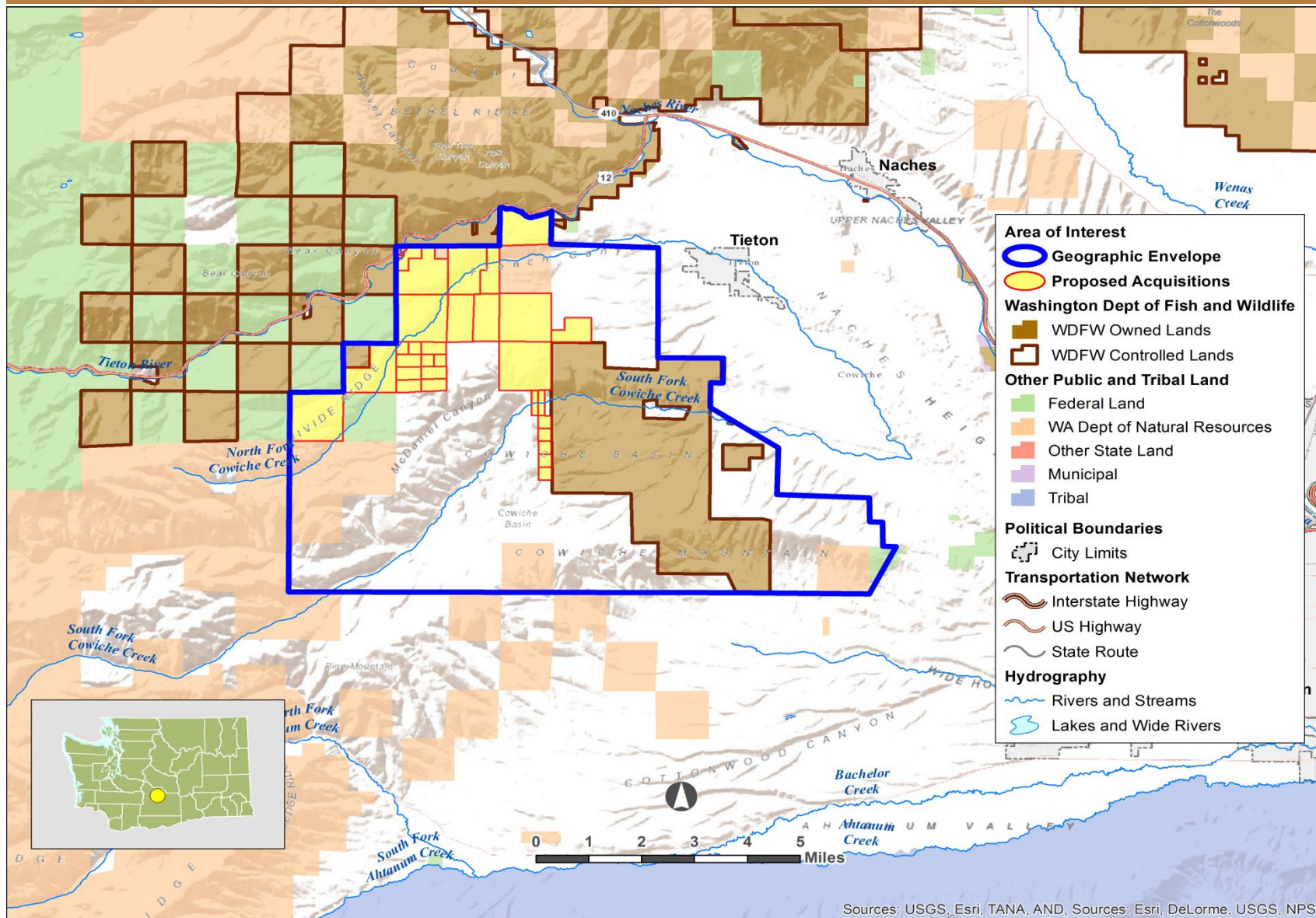
Recreation Values

- **Hunting**
- **Fishing**
- **Wildlife viewing**



Agency	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Estimated Acres	3,292
Existing Uses	Grazing, forest management and recreation
Threats	Development
Intended Uses	This acquisition would be managed by the Oak Creek Wildlife Area, grazing would continue under the management of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Management goals include protection of fish and wildlife; including providing recreational opportunities.
Project Description	The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use grant funding to protect 3,292 acres of critical and diverse habitats along south central slopes of the Cascade Mountains near Yakima. This project is dominated by native shrub steppe habitat. Draws and higher elevation areas transition to stringers of ponderosa pine forests, aspen stand and wetlands. Riparian corridors and patches of uplands support Oregon white oak woodlands. This project would provide a vital migration corridor and winter range for the deer and elk populations. Cowiche Creek provides high quality spawning and rearing habitat and is designated as critical habitat for the ESA listed steelhead. The project area supports a stronghold of nesting and resident golden eagles.
Partners/Supporters	Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Lands, Rocky Mt Elk Foundation, the Yakama Nation, Bureau of Land Management, Yakima County and U.S. Forest Service





Sources: USGS, Esri, TANA, AND, Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS